

**Good morning.** I am Abigail Wilson, the director of state policy for the Software and Information Industry Association (SIIA) and want to respectfully express our strong opposition to **H.650**. SIIA is the principal trade association for the software and digital information industries worldwide, representing nearly 400 companies that develop and deliver educational software, digital instructional content, and online learning services.

While we share the legislature's commitment to student privacy and well-being, this bill outlines issues that are already thoughtfully addressed by local schools. We urge you to consider three major concerns with this legislation:

**First off, H.650 drastically undermines local control.** It shifts authority away from local educators and administrators to the Secretary of State. This replaces a proven, localized, and expert-led vetting system with a rigid administrative hurdle disconnected from local districts.

**Secondly, it creates a burdensome "pre-market approval" system.** The bill prohibits schools from using any product not certified by the Secretary of State—an office whose limited resources could be used for other important goals than to evaluate literally thousands of rapidly evolving education tools. Local educators and districts are the experts in what works in their classrooms. This mandatory subjective certification process will create massive regulatory uncertainty.

**Third and finally, the bill's definitions are overbroad and ambiguous.** By covering any software that "may collect, process, or transmit student data," the bill could inadvertently ban general-purpose tools like cloud storage or basic productivity software that are used in classrooms across the state.. Furthermore, applying these rules to products used "with or without a contract" creates an unknown legal liability for providers.

Evidence-based educational technology acts as a force multiplier for our teachers, saving them hours of administrative work, and can effectively double student learning gains in subjects like Algebra. We must not slow down classroom innovation. We urge you to **oppose H.650** and instead focus on providing additional resources to build local capacity for our educators and school districts.

Thank you for your time.